Celebrating Cuba! Collaborative Collections of Cuban Patrimony

Celebrating Cuba! Collaborative Collections of Cuban Patrimony seeks to advance and centralize current digital surrogates of Cuban historical and cultural material with the ultimate goal of providing global access to Cuba’s patrimony.

Celebrating Cuba! currently contains more than one million pages organized in ten different collections: Cuban Newspapers and Periodicals, Archives and Manuscripts of and about Cuba, Cuban Monographs, Cuban Ephemera, Cuban Law, Cuban Thinkers and Intellectual Leaders, Maps of Cuba, Theses and Dissertations about Cuba, U.S. Government Publications about Cuba, and Cuban Judaica. This is the result of several years of collaborative work between the George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida (https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/) and Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí (BNJM, http://www.bnjm.cu/) as well as other partner universities and contributors in the United States such as Cornell University, Duke University, Florida International University, Harvard University, HistoryMiami, Kent State University, Library of Congress (US), LLMC-Digital, New York Public Library, University of California Los Angeles, University of Kentucky, University of Miami, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Yale University.

Materials are available at BNJM and through the University of Florida Digital Collections Celebrating Cuba! (www.ufdc.ufl.edu/CUBA) site and simultaneously in the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC, www.dLOC.com). Digital files are also available to partner institutions who wish to locally host materials. Specific current priority projects and links to digital collections for each one are below. If you are interested in learning more about specific initiatives or wish to participate in one or more of the projects, please contact CubaSteering@uflib.ufl.edu.

This Quarterly report highlights recent additions (since June 2019) to each of the collections as well as new projects on the horizon. Collaboration with partner institutions in the United States is active and successfully expanding this unique digital repository that provides broad public access to Cuba’s cultural and historical patrimony. A parallel digital collection is hosted by BNJM to provide and ensure broad access to Cuban patrimony in Cuba as well.

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Cuban Newspapers and Periodicals

The Cuban Newspapers & Periodicals digital collection (https://ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanserials) includes newspapers, yearbooks, scholarly journals, magazines, bulletins, newsletters, and periodicals published in Cuba, the United States, and other countries. The majority of these serials date from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the contents cover a broad variety of topics such as politics, science, religion, entertainment, literature, history, arts, and culture.

There are currently 75 titles consisting of more than half a million pages in this collection. Diario de la Marina (https://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00001565) and Bohemia (http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00029010) continue to be popular titles among users of the collection.

RECENTLY ADDED BORN DIGITAL TITLES

Additionally, five publications from Florida and the U.S. and one publication from Spain provided permission for their titles to be harvested and digitally preserved in UFDC. The titles are:

- Cuba News (194 items) (https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00068563)
- Raíces de la Perla (19 items) (https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00068647)
- Cuba Standard Monthly (51 items) (https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00068562)
- CdeCuba (28 items) (https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00068698)

CdeCuba

NEWS IN THE CUBAN NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS DIGITAL COLLECTION

Since June 2019, ten titles have been added to the collection. Four of the titles have issues from the 1960s through the 2000s and six are born digital titles. Pensamiento Crítico (https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00068205) is the most recent new title, and new issues were loaded for Revista Cuba and Revista Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí. The source institution of this material is BNJM. The University of Miami’s Cuban Heritage Collection (https://www.library.miami.edu/chc/) digitized 17 issues of La Política Cómica (https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00068588/00001).
Cuban Monographs, including Cuban Thinkers

For the Cuban Monographs collection, the project seeks to identify and digitize all monographs published in Cuba, as well as publications of important Cuban intellectuals outside of Cuba.

The collection of Cuban Monographs (https://ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanimp) includes bibliographic and literary materials on Cuba’s colonial past, efforts for self-governance, slavery, nationalism, foreign investment, crime, women’s rights, spirituality, popular culture and human rights. The main goal of this collection is to identify and prioritize the digitization of Cuban bibliographic patrimony of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The total number of items (titles) in the collection is 596, and the main contributors to the collection are BNJM, University of Florida, Harvard University, Kent State University, and University of North Carolina.

The Cuban Monographs collection had more than 31,000 views in August 2019. Among the most viewed titles were the encyclopedic monograph Álbum Universal (http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00059313) and the Diccionario geográfico, estadístico, histórico de la isla de Cuba (https://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00085440) by intellectual Jacobo de la Pezuela (1811-1882, born in Spain and died in Cuba), published in 1863.

CUBAN THINKERS

Celebrating Cuban Thinkers & Intellectual Leaders (https://ufdc.ufl.edu/cuban_thinkers) includes works by and about a group of Cuban philosophers, scholars, clergy, scientists, and thinkers who advocated new ideas and significantly influenced the development of Cuba, particularly in the 19th Century. These intellectual leaders focused on social, political, economic, and cultural issues, and many were proponents of Cuban nationalism and independence from Spain.

The list of Cuban pensadores included in this collection is growing everyday thanks to the collaborative efforts between experts from Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí, University of Florida, and partners institutions in the United States.

Francisco Arango y Parreño
José Martín Félix de Arrate y Acosta
José Agustín Caballero
Juan José Díaz de Espada y Fernández de Landa
Máximo Gómez
Pedro José Guiteras
José de la Luz y Caballero
Antonio Maceo
José Martí
Rafael Maria Mendive y Daumy
Domingo del Monte
Pedro Agustín Morell de Santa Cruz
Jacobo de la Pezuela
Felipe Poey
Tomás Romay Chacón
José Antonio Saco
Ramón de la Sagra
Ignacio José de Urrutia y Montoya
Félix Varela
Enrique José Varona
Cuban Maps

The Cuban Maps collection ([https://ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanmaps](https://ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanmaps)) houses digital surrogates of a total of 713 maps sheets of the geographical area of Cuba. The maps can be of the entire Gulf of Mexico, parts of the island of Cuba, or sections of the Caribbean Mexican coast, but they all contain a representation of the island and country of the Republic of Cuba. Four institutions in the United States have contributed maps to this collection: Library of Congress, HistoryMiami University of

“Scheeps togt van Jamaica gedaan na Panuco en Rio de las Palmas, aan de Golf van Mexico gelegen” ([http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF90000053/00001](http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF90000053/00001), see above), a 1706 map from the University of Florida Map & Imagery Library ([https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/maps/Index.aspx](https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/maps/Index.aspx)), had more than had 16,000 views.

In addition, the goal of this collection is to document broadly and exhaustively existing maps of or about Cuba that are hosted in non-Cuban institutions and also in BNJM. A project for a bilingual Cartobibliography is underway as well. To complement this task, the University of Florida and the Library of Congress embarked in a project to catalog Library of Congress maps of Cuba or about Cuba, and this resulted in more than 1,000 more map entries.

There were over 36,059 views of the collection last August 2019.

Below are some of the latest digitized maps that are accessible in the University of Florida Digital Collections and the Digital Library of the Caribbean.

Military Map of Cuba ([http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00048570/00001](http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00048570/00001)). Sheet 1 shows the title sheet of the document. The other two images are Sheet no. 23 and Sheet no. 54 in the document.
Cuba Judaica

The Cuban Judaica collection is available at [https://ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanjudaica](https://ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanjudaica). It currently includes 221 items and over 37,000 pages. The collection mostly comprises holdings from the Temple Beth Shalom (Gran Sinagoga Bet Shalom) in Havana, Cuba, as well as material from the University of Florida’s Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica ([https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/judaica/Index.aspx](https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/judaica/Index.aspx)), which has over a quarter of a million pages online in the University of Florida’s Jewish Diaspora Collection ([https://ufdc.ufl.edu/judaica](https://ufdc.ufl.edu/judaica)).

The project to digitize the holdings of the Gran Sinagoga Bet Shalom concluded in April of 2019 after a year of capturing and imaging processing work in Havana. The 1954 Theodor Herzl’s Autobiografía y Pensamientos ([http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00054243](http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00054243)), with a prologue by Abraham Marcus Matterín, the founder of La Agrupación Cultural Hebreo Cubana in Havana, Cuba, has been widely explored. The recently loaded almanac Havaner lebn almanakh (Almanaque hebreo, Vida habanera) ([http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00064671](http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00064671)) includes 13 volumes from 1945, 1947-1952, 1955-1960, and provides great insight to Havana’s commercial life as well as influential figures of the city’s Jewish community.

The main goal of this part of the Celebrating Cuba! project is to identify and enlarge the online collection of Jewish cultural heritage and historical materials published in Cuba or relating to Cuba. To this end, the University of Florida continues to partner with cultural institutions in Cuba and

Cuban Archives and Manuscripts

The Cuban Archives and Manuscripts collection ([https://ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanmanuscripts](https://ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanmanuscripts)) includes archival collections that document the history and culture of Cuba and holdings that relate to Cuba and Cubans since the seventeenth century. Curated collections with information in both English and Spanish are digitally accessible and documented at the Cuban Archives and Manuscripts online collection.

There are currently two subcollections in this section, the partially digitized Braga Brothers Collection ([https://ufdc.ufl.edu/braga](https://ufdc.ufl.edu/braga)) on the Cuban sugar industry, and the fully digitized Romero Family Papers ([https://ufdc.ufl.edu/romero](https://ufdc.ufl.edu/romero)) of family papers about José Martí. These archival Cuban collections are housed in the University of Florida Special and Area Studies Collections. The Cuban Archives and Manuscripts collection started in 2018 and further development is expected in 2020.

**NEXT DECEMBER**

We are working on translating into Spanish all the finding aids of Cuban archival collections housed at the University of Florida’s Special Collections.
The Cuban Law and Legal Materials collection (https://ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanlaw) includes historic through current Cuban law documents and related international documents. Contributors to this collection include the Digital Library of the Caribbean’s partners in Cuba and around the world and LLMC Digital.

The Cuban Law and Legal Materials collection is rapidly growing with almost half a million digital pages available for users to explore Cuban historical legal documents. The partnership with LLMC Digital (http://llmc.com/), a consortium and non-profit organization that seeks to preserve and digitize the world’s legal patrimony, is essential for the development of the collection and other law collections of the Digital Library of the Caribbean.

Users of our collections have been interested in The Cuban Family Code (http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00021904). It was published in 1977 and was intended to regulate “judicially the institutions of the family—marriage, divorce, parent-child relations, obligation to provide alimony, adoption and tutelage…”

NEW TITLES
The following titles are also newly available online:
• (1917) Legislación de accidentes del trabajo de Cuba
• (1900, 1981) Cuba independiente
• (1908) Ley electoral de Cuba de septiembre 11 de 1908 y discusiones de sus bases
• (1959-1961) Leyes del Gobierno provisional de la revolución (31 volumes)
• (1961-1963) Leyes del Gobierno Revolucionario de Cuba (19 volumes)

The collaboration with LLMC Digital is active and productive, and over 45,000 new pages will be accessible in the Cuban Law and Legal Materials by the end of 2019.
US Government Documents About Cuba

The goal of the US Government Documents About Cuba collection (https://ufdc.ufl.edu/cubancoe) is to identify, catalog, and make available U.S. government document publications that relate to Cuba. In 2017, UF agreed to serve as a Center of Excellence (COE) for the Collaborative Federal Depository Program managed by the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL). As the COE for Cuba, UF catalogs, preserves, and makes available both print and digital collections of all available U.S. government documents relating to Cuba, regardless of the publishing agency.

To date the collection has 7,855 items within 73 titles.

Thesis and Dissertations about Cuba

The Theses and Dissertations About Cuba collection (https://ufdc.ufl.edu/cubantheses) preserves research and scholarship about Cuba that has been produced by graduate students at the University of Florida for almost 70 years. It contains a total of 77 manuscripts, with studies on a variety of topics ranging from identity politics, Cubans in exile, literature, the sugar industry in Cuba, race, slavery, and the Cuban armed forces.